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## THE MEDICAL LANGUAGE OF HIPPOCRATES

In my "Style and Literary Method of Luke" I have argued that the attempt to confirm by means of so-called technical medical terms the tradition that Luke and Acts were written by a physician has failed to establish the presence in these writings of words that were not used freely also by non-medical writers. Indeed, the attempt was bound to fail for the reason that unlike the present medical profession the ancient physician scarcely had a technical vocabulary at all. As Professor G. F. Moore there pointed out (pp. 53 f.), while modern medical terminology is largely made up of foreign words, the scientific words of the Greeks were native to the living language and congenial for ordinary use. To support this Galen's statement was quoted (p. 64, n. 91), that for the sake of clearness he preferred to employ, not unfamiliar terms, but those which the bulk of people are accustomed to use. I would now add that Galen makes the same claim for the linguistic practice of Hippocrates, his famous predecessor. In Comm. Hipp. de Epidemiis iii, 32 (ed. Kuhn XVII. i. 678) Galen says: *ὁ γάρ τοι τοῦ Ἡρακλείδου υἱὸς Ἱπποκράτης . . . φαίνεται συνηθεστάτοις τε καὶ διὰ τοῦτο σαφέσι τοῖς ὀνόμασι κεχρημένος, ἃ καλεῖν ἔθος ἔστι τοῖς ῥητορικοῖς πολιτικά.*

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